

A GREAT FIRE

Capital Traction Power House Destroyed.

THE LOSS IS IMMENSE

Absence of a Strong Wind Saved the City.

A MAGNIFICENT SPECTACLE

The flames were first observed in the southwest portion of the great building—they spread with amazing rapidity—the city turned out to witness the monster blaze—the loss is estimated to be at least a million dollars, and a big section of the city would have been wiped out had there been much wind.

The magnificent power-house of the Capital Traction Company, of the Washington and Georgetown Railway, as it was generally known, was consumed last night by one of the most rapid and picturesque fires ever witnessed in Washington. The great brick building occupied the whole block bounded by Thirteenth and a-half street, Fourteenth street, Pennsylvania avenue, D and E street northwest. It had a frontage and depth of about 450 feet; was six stories high, and contained a multitude of industries within its four great enclosing walls.

WHY SHOULD YOU HESITATE

Don't Think That High-Sounding Words Prove Quality.

PROVIDERS TELL THE TRUTH

All Honor, All Honesty, All the Virtues Are Not Centered at 415-417 Seventh Street, but Moyer & Pettit Are Striving to Run a Genuine Store for the Plain People, a Store for Money Saving.

It is a good-looking table, neatly made and finished. You can exercise your choice between high-polished oak or mahogany finish—whichever suits the style of your parlor best.

The price of this table at the great double store and others, 415-417 Seventh street, is but 38 cents. A bargain? Yes; a rich and rare bargain, as you can prove to yourself by investigation. Go; visit every furniture dealer in town, and see whether you can match it at anything like the price.

You cannot. The other particular bargain that Moyer & Pettit have provided for you is a chiffoier. Solid, polished oak, with five large, roomy drawers.

A chiffoier that is an ornament, as well as a commodious and useful piece of furniture. You will surprise them but some flimsy unit when you hear the price, but there is no. Ground investigate; examine closely. Not a fault will you find.

Three dollars and ninety-eight cents? Yes, that is the price the Great Providers have put on it. How they can afford to do it, they themselves know. Man; another merchant would like to know how they manage to sell so cheap, and give credit to all.

The above appeared in The Times of last evening. It stands good today. A gentle reminder may bring you to the great double store, perhaps as a buyer, perhaps as a welcome guest.

GET

A Top Coat. You need it now and we are prepared to suit and fit you. No matter what style or size you require. Nobby, stylish, perfectly tailored coats at \$7.50, \$10, \$12.50, \$15 and up to \$25. One hundred cents worth of goodness for every dollar of the cost of each and every one of them.

ROBINSON & CHERY CO., 12th and F Sts. N.W.

83, Norfolk & Wash. Steamboat Co.'s Autumn Trips to Old Point Comfort, Norfolk and Virginia Beach. Most delightful season at these popular resorts. Saturday evening excursions will be continued at \$3 round trip, returning Monday 6:30 a. m.

\$1.00 to Baltimore and Return via B. & O. Tickets good going and returning on all trains Sunday, October 3. se29-cd2

Frank Libbey & Co., Sixth street and New York avenue.

others were hastening away with their most cherished valuables, and all this while shower after shower of sparks fell on their houses and clouds of smoke filled the streets.

While these picturesque scenes were on the other side, the streets reaching the Avenue from the north and the east and west as close as the fire was enduring, were packed with humanity, which was lighted up with red glare from the volcano.

The flames spread with amazing rapidity. It was just about 11:25 when the flames became large enough to attract attention. There was just a slight breeze, which was faintly blowing north, shifting to northeast. This, however, was sufficient to assist the immense flames which the corridors and winding of the structure furnished.

As a consequence the building was practically a furnace with its flames running northeast, and in an incredible time the fire had reached the east side and the northeast angle, and curiously enough the drift of the terrible tide of flame was to the upper floors.

At 11:35 the whole of the top and the two lower floors were one seething mass of fire. In the next few minutes the drift was toward the west, and it was difficult to follow the varied shapes and directions taken by the overmastering, all-consuming flames.

Within ten minutes after the fire began to be blown with intense heat and fury through the upper stories, it was evident that the fire would soon wipe the building off the face of the earth.

The general alarm, of course, brought out the whole fire department, and never were runs made more gallantly or with a more forbidding hope.

The engines for six squares off were lighted to the way by a magnificent blaze. Out of every window came a mass of flame and smoke, and nothing could exceed the brilliancy, heat, animation or intense excitement of the scene.

At about midnight the whole contents of the building, a million and a quarter cubic feet, were ablaze, and could well be compared to a volcano in eruption. Such indeed it was.

At about ten minutes to midnight the flames burst through the roof, and while the fabric fell to the top floor, the whole mass of flame, 250,000 square feet of it, shot up into the air two hundred feet and separated into sheets by the clouds of smoke, shot up and up and up, as if to the stars. When the first splendid and picturesque burst of this kind had passed off it left in mid air a shower of sparks which soared upward and then fell to the north and northwest, in time reaching to I street, K street, and L street. This was repeated with well high sublime effect, as each floor fell in, or as the walls in floors tumbled down with loud crashes and wrapped in their sun sheets of flame.

The fire engines were mere playthings in the desperate emergency. They could not reach the fierce flames away up on the towering building, where they shot out their menacing tongues in mockery of the pigmy forces below.

Soon the heat became intolerable. Near the building the firemen worked with splendid heroism and endurance. On the north side of Pennsylvania avenue it was necessary for the crowds to keep indoors to escape the heat.

By degrees the crowd had been driven back, first from the positions near the firemen, then to the reservation on the Avenue, then to the north pavement, and eventually into the buildings on the north side.

At 11:56 the east wall fell, when the crash and the splendid spectacle were witnessed by a great crowd as ever assembled in one place in Washington.

The whole of the section of the city south, southwest, and southeast, and, not usually those nearest the fire, were most intensely excited.

There was a hurrying to and fro in the side streets, women appeared dragging children after them in their night clothes;

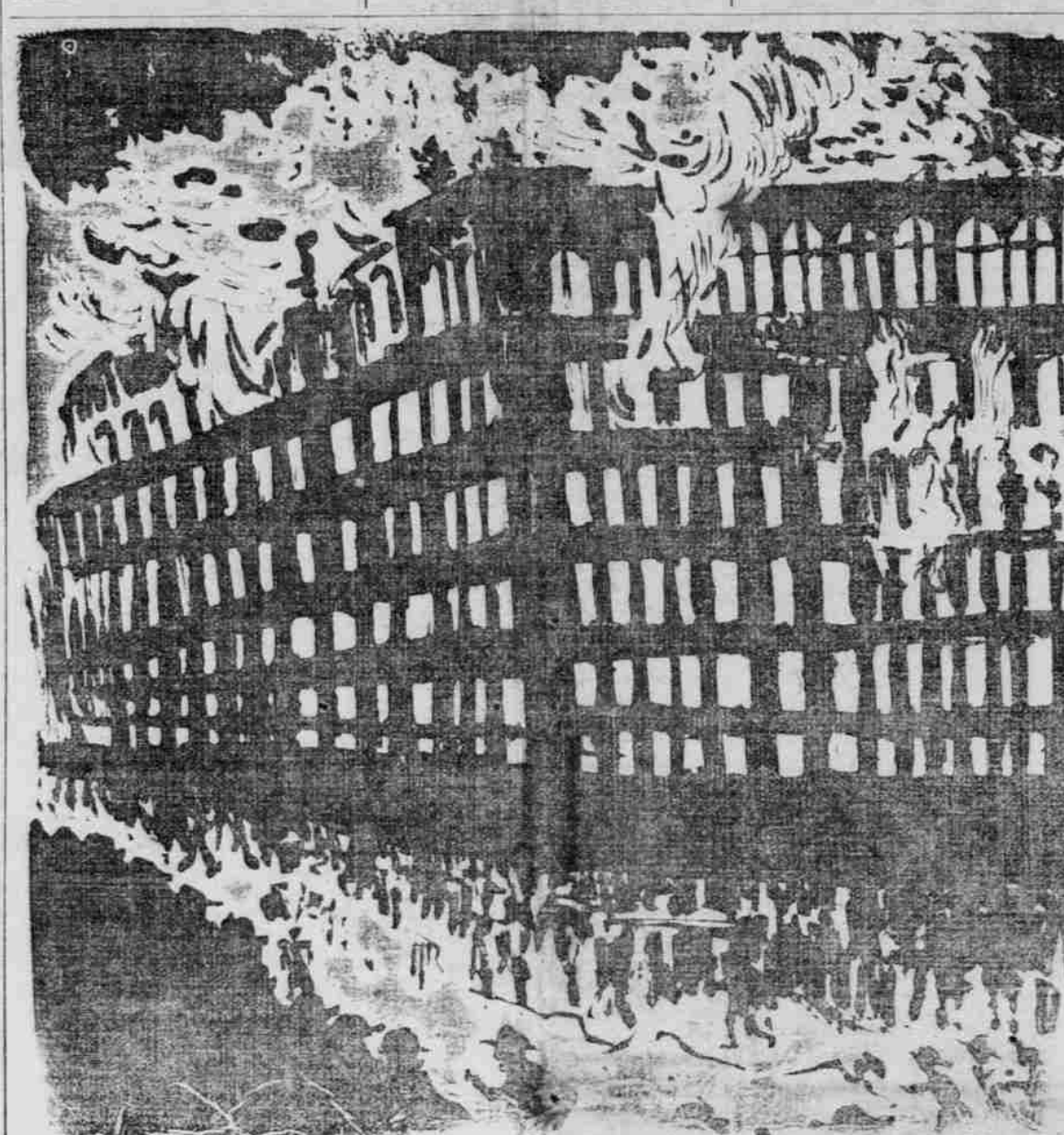
Gayton Coal Post Taking the Lead! \$5.25 per ton—Stove-Egg—Not Ask your dealer for Gayton. Insist on having it. Accept no substitute. Wholesale by Foxonian Coal Co., 1368 C st. n.w. Phone 620. se29-cd2

Our Shingles Are Made From Close grain Florida cypress. \$4.50 per 1,000.

contrary, continued to increase from midnight until dawn. At one time, when the whole volume of the flames below was added to the fire above, the illumination was strong enough to make plain as day the street, and as far as the hills on the north.

Up to 2 o'clock this morning there were no reports of casualties, a strange fact, considering the large number of such reports.

HOW IT STARTED. Flames First Burst Out on the Third Floor. The fire originated in the printing office



THE FIRE BREAKING THROUGH THE ROOF.

The cable cars were paralyzed, and they with a mass of vehicles, horses, and bicycles made up one of the great scenes very seldom witnessed in a great city.

Just about the time the east wall fell the line of telegraph, electric light and telephone poles were on fire, and the wires themselves glowed like threads of steel at a white heat, even against the general illumination.

One of the strangest sights of the night was the number of electric lights which burned intensely blue in the sea of flames. Soon after the east wall fell the intense heat fired into flame the west wall of the buildings on the east side of Thirteenth and a-half street.

After this building had caught there was evident the probability of buildings catching east, south and west, if not by the intense heat by the sparks. They were not sparks in the ordinary sense of the word. Burning pieces of wood as large as playing cards were hurled into the air and fell on the tops of buildings for a radius of two or three squares.

This was so evident a scene of danger that all of the people in the nearest squares, who were not out in the streets, were out on their roofs with buckets of water, or in some other way removing the sparks from slate, tile, or shingle.

At 1 o'clock this morning the whole interior of the splendid building had gone, a half block above the power-house, was the first to reach the scene. But it was some minutes before a stream was turned on to the flames.

In the meantime the fire spread with terrible rapidity, and it was soon apparent that the entire building was in danger, and the whole fire department and police reserves were called.

Flames Schuyler and Cowan, the two officers on the beat, who turned in the second alarm, were immediately re-enforced by a valuable officer in the city.

From Gettlinger's office the flames spread in both directions along D street and swept around the Thirteenth and Fourteenth streets' sides of the building. In fifteen minutes after the fire was first discovered the entire structure was a mass of roaring flames, which threatened the destruction of surrounding buildings.

The heat had by this time grown so intense that not only were the vast crowds driven back up the streets, but the firemen as well were handicapped in their work.

of rooms on the third floor on the D street side, west of the center of the building.

The origin is not definitely known, but is supposed to have resulted from sparks from the engine used in the printing process or from a match or light of cigarette stump carelessly thrown on waste paper.

Yesterday Mr. Gettlinger had a big job on hand which he was anxious to get out of the fire of the month. Last night he worked until half past 11 o'clock there were fifteen girls at work in the office.

Mr. Gettlinger was the last to leave his place of business, and that time, perhaps ten minutes after 11 o'clock, he noticed nothing wrong. As he passed down out of the building he stopped and talked for two or three minutes with one of the night watchmen.

There were four watchmen in the building and every floor was fitted out with time boxes, which the watchmen were obliged to turn as he passed. At a few minutes past 11 the watchmen turned the clock opposite Mr. Gettlinger's office. There were then no signs of any fire.

Not more than five minutes later some one ran to the fire alarm box at the Ebbitt House and called out the fire department. Who discovered the blaze could not be learned. At the same time the flames shot forth from the several windows of the printing office.

Engine No. 2, which is located on D street, a half block above the power-house, was the first to reach the scene. But it was some minutes before a stream was turned on to the flames.

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The dozen streams upon the blaze fairly evaporated into steam before they touched the building, and Fire Chief Parris directed that the firemen shift their attention to saving the surrounding property.

For the first fifteen or twenty minutes the conflagration was devouring the upper floors of the building above the third floor. When it was seen that the entire building was doomed, Engineer Davis rushed wildly into the burning structure for the purpose of drawing off the steam in the big boilers which ran the cable road.

He feared that the explosion which was sure to follow would result perhaps in blowing down the walls and occasion serious loss of life. He was, however, only successful in getting half way to the engine room, when he was driven back by the intense heat and clouds of smoke, which came near exhausting him, and he was compelled to retreat. With great presence of mind he locked the large front doors of the building as he passed out, so west corner of the building, which was

that there would be no danger of anyone again entering the burning structure. Just as the flames had enveloped the entire building, a youth rushed madly across Pennsylvania avenue and started for the entrance to the building. The crowds yelled at him, and several officers started to intercept him.

He faltered for an instant, and then made a wild rush and was lost to sight in the smoke. Had the doors been unlocked he would have been lost. In a minute he reappeared, safe, but crying, "My God, my brother is burned alive!"

The young man said his brother's name was George Eideleman, and that he worked in the building and was there at the time the fire broke out. It was later learned that the fellow had not been injured.

Before the flames had reached the north town and Mount Pleasant, so you see we will have to leave our seats on the Fourth street line and walk on the Avenue. We will have horse cars running today, and in three days time will have everything running.

The building was built in 1892 at a cost of \$200,000, and equipped at an additional cost of \$50,000. The revolving staircase was put up by a Philadelphia company after designs by Architect Rock. The foundation, which is built upon piles, was laid by the Pullman Company, of Kansas City. The large safe contains the books and tickets, and a part of the city's records of the company, and being fire-proof will probably remain intact. If so, it will be the only thing that has escaped the fury of the fire.

The principal tenant of the building, besides the Traction Company, was the Southern Railroad Company. The other large firms were the William Gaetzinger Printing Company, the Cable Type-writing Company, the Frank's Steam Laundry, the Lanson Monotype Company and the National Printing Company. There were smaller tenants, but their names are too numerous to recall just at present.

THE POLICE AND FIREMEN. More Than Half the Police Force Were Around the Fire.

The police department hurriedly into action, and rendered valiant aid to the firemen by leading back the vast crowds that came down to the fire from all parts of the city. It was estimated that considerably more than one-half of the whole number of police on the force was on duty at the fire.

The bells of the first alarm had scarcely ceased to clang when the reserves from Station No. 1 rolled up the Avenue. As another alarm rang the reserves from No. 6 came down. Then as the general alarm sounded over the wires and carried the news of the great fire into every engine house and police station in the district all the patrol wagons were rung out, and the reserves started at a dead run from every precinct. No. 2 came down on the run, No. 4 rolled up from the south, No. 3 came down the northwest with the men from No. 7 trailing close behind them. The reserves from No. 8, with Lieut. Kenney with them, were early at the scene. The reserves from the northeast, from Nos. 5 and 9, came up in good season.

The men, as soon as they would reach the fire-stricken district, fell to work, and as they did so they kept the crowd back by the force of keeping back the throng, not only for the purpose of giving the firemen a clear space in which to operate, but also for the safety of the people themselves, who, in their excitement would often press forward toward the smoldering line.

Capt. Anglin was on the ground, and Mayor Moore himself came down to give aid by counsel and advice. Lieut. Cross and Pearson were there, and took part in the later stages of the burning. Lieut. Anglin, of the First, Boyle, of the Third, Hollenberger, of the Fourth, Kelly, of the Sixth, McArthur, of the Ninth and Heffer, of the Second, were present.

Not content with turning out the reserves in the morning, the fire department sent down to the fire, and all the new coming off duty at 12 o'clock were called out. The result was that there was a cordon of blue coats extending around two squares.

The only rope used in stemming the human tide was stretched across Fourteenth street at the southwest end of the burning building.

No disorder occurred and no arrest was made during the progress of the fire. The only casualty, reported as a result of the fire, was the death of a man who fell from the Avenue at Thirteenth street, who wanted because of the excitement.

NOTES AND INCIDENTS. The People, the Blaze and the Occasion as Reported.

The sheets of iron which wafted like puffs of smoke past the crowd, fell by the hundred in whatever groups they floated into. The fiery furnace blew about hundreds of feet in the air.

When the east wall and parts of the north wall had fallen there was disclosed at the top of the white inner exposed walls a vast, red-hot, glowing door. It was a fire-proof door. In five minutes the heat dissolved its ironwork and it floated into the fiery pit.

The busiest bucket brigade worked on top the National Theater. Had the theater burned last night it would not be its fifth fire. The last time it burned was during Cleveland's first inauguration. It is now as nearly fireproof and as carefully watched as it could possibly be. John Riordan is the faithful night guard.

He is devoted to the charge. An explosion occurred in the fire-proof house. A daisy mummy in the crowd exclaimed, "Hash y!" corrected her companion, "it's a farrel to shute." One of the upper walls had fallen.

One practical fireman who named himself in the rear window of the Southern Railroad building, and while all the other streams threw up played down on the D street row.

The kodak fiend was out. It was his first midnight snap.

The iron gates of the National Theater were the ideal point of vantage. It was packed.

The trees in the vicinity that survived green after all the summer's withering, to a seared autumn brown before the fire was half an hour old.

The men and women, with their bicycles were most numerous, where the crowd was thickest. The perambulator fiend was scarce.

the effect of the fire was first felt by the cable line. The cars were dead on the tracks ten minutes after the start was made. Navy Yard car No. 227 stopped at the corner of Fourteenth street and the Avenue, and there it remained. Navy Yard No. 226 and depot No. 22 were held up at Thirteenth and a-half street.

The cars came down Fifteenth street without the cable. In force of gravity. The grip men did not know the cable was dead till they tightened the grip after crossing Fourteenth street. The cars were rolled beyond Twelfth street and there they rested.

The cabbies did a big business taking the weary ones of the crowd home. No cable cars were running. "It's an all right," not the cable.

The heat was unendurable on D street across from the power house, when one stood out in its reach. Around the corner the air was damp and chilly. The iron posts were warm to the south side and cold on the north side.

"In a minute!" Yes, that's how it happened.

\$1.25 to Baltimore and Return via B. & O. September 29, 30, and October 1, account of baseball games between Washington and Baltimore teams. Take the 45-minute flyers. se29,30,31,32,33,34,35,36,37,38,39,40,41,42,43,44,45,46,47,48,49,50,51,52,53,54,55,56,57,58,59,60,61,62,63,64,65,66,67,68,69,70,71,72,73,74,75,76,77,78,79,80,81,82,83,84,85,86,87,88,89,90,91,92,93,94,95,96,97,98,99,100,101,102,103,104,105,106,107,108,109,110,111,112,113,114,115,116,117,118,119,120,121,122,123,124,125,126,127,128,129,130,131,132,133,134,135,136,137,138,139,140,141,142,143,144,145,146,147,148,149,150,151,152,153,154,155,156,157,158,159,160,161,162,163,164,165,166,167,168,169,170,171,172,173,174,175,176,177,178,179,180,181,182,183,184,185,186,187,188,189,190,191,192,193,194,195,196,197,198,199,200,201,202,203,204,205,206,207,208,209,210,211,212,213,214,215,216,217,218,219,220,221,222,223,224,225,226,227,228,229,230,231,232,233,234,235,236,237,238,239,240,241,242,243,244,245,246,247,248,249,250,251,252,253,254,255,256,257,258,259,260,261,262,263,264,265,266,267,268,269,270,271,272,273,274,275,276,277,278,279,280,281,282,283,284,285,286,287,288,289,290,291,292,293,294,295,296,297,298,299,300,301,302,303,304,305,306,307,308,309,310,311,312,313,314,315,316,317,318,319,320,321,322,323,324,325,326,327,328,329,330,331,332,333,334,335,336,337,338,339,340,341,342,343,344,345,346,347,348,349,350,351,352,353,354,355,356,357,358,359,360,361,362,363,364,365,366,367,368,369,370,371,372,373,374,375,376,377,378,379,380,381,382,383,384,385,386,387,388,389,390,391,392,393,394,395,396,397,398,399,400,401,402,403,404,405,406,407,408,409,410,411,412,413,414,415,416,417,418,419,420,421,422,423,424,425,426,427,428,429,430,431,432,433,434,435,436,437,438,439,440,441,442,443,444,445,446,447,448,449,450,451,452,453,454,455,456,457,458,459,460,461,462,463,464,465,466,467,468,469,470,471,472,473,474,475,476,477,478,479,480,481,482,483,484,485,486,487,488,489,490,491,492,493,494,495,496,497,498,499,500,501,502,503,504,505,506,507,508,509,510,511,512,513,514,515,516,517,518,519,520,521,522,523,524,525,526,527,528,529,530,531,532,533,534,535,536,537,538,539,540,541,542,543,544,545,546,547,548,549,550,551,552,553,554,555,556,557,558,559,560,561,562,563,564,565,566,567,568,569,570,571,572,573,574,575,576,577,578,579,580,581,582,583,584,585,586,587,588,589,590,591,592,593,594,595,596,597,598,599,600,601,602,603,604,605,606,607,608,609,610,611,612,613,614,615,616,617,618,619,620,621,622,623,624,625,626,627,628,629,630,631,632,633,634,635,636,637,638,639,640,641,642,643,644,645,646,647,648,649,650,651,652,653,654,655,656,657,658,659,660,661,662,663,664,665,666,667,668,669,670,671,672,673,674,675,676,677,678,679,680,681,682,683,684,685,686,687,688,689,690,691,692,693,694,695,696,697,698,699,700,701,702,703,704,705,706,707,708,709,710,711,712,713,714,715,716,717,718,719,720,721,722,723,724,725,726,727,728,729,730,731,732,733,734,735,736,737,738,739,740,741,742,743,744,745,746,747,748,749,750,751,752,753,754,755,756,757,758,759,760,761,762,763,764,765,766,767,768,769,770,771,772,773,774,775,776,777,778,779,780,781,782,783,784,785,786,787,788,789,790,791,792,793,794,795,796,797,798,799,800,801,802,803,804,805,806,807,808,809,810,811,812,813,814,815,816,817,818,819,820,821,822,823,824,825,826,827,828,829,830,831,832,833,834,835,836,837,838,839,840,841,842,843,844,845,846,847,848,849,850,851,852,853,854,855,856,857,858,859,860,861,862,863,864,865,866,867,868,869,870,871,872,873,874,875,876,877,878,879,880,881,882,883,884,885,886,887,888,889,890,891,892,893,894,895,896,897,898,899,900,901,902,903,904,905,906,907,908,909,910,911,912,913,914,915,916,917,918,919,920,921,922,923,924,925,926,927,928,929,930,931,932,933,934,935,936,937,938,939,940,941,942,943,944,945,946,947,948,949,950,951,952,953,954,955,956,957,958,959,960,961,962,963,964,965,966,967,968,969,970,971,972,973,974,975,976,977,978,979,980,981,982,983,984,985,986,987,988,989,990,991,992,993,994,995,996,997,998,999,1000,1001,1002,1003,1004,1005,1006,1007,1008,1009,1010,1011,1012,1013,1014,1015,1016,1017,1018,1019,1020,1021,1022,1023,1024,1025,1026,1027,1028,1029,1030,1031,1032,1033,1034,1035,1036,1037,1038,1039,1040,1041,1042,1043,1044,1045,1046,1047,1048,1049,1050,1051,1052,1053,1054,1055,1056,1057,1058,1059,1060,1061,1062,1063,1064,1065,1066,1067,1068,1069,1070,1071,1072,1073,1074,1075,1076,1077,1078,1079,1080,1081,1082,1083,1084,1085,1086,1087,1088,1089,1090,1091,1092,1093,1094,1095,1096,1097,1098,1099,1100,1101,1102,1103,1104,1105,1106,1107,1108,1109,1110,1111,1112,1113,1114,1115,1116,1117,1118,1119,1120,1121,1122,1123,1124,1125,1126,1127